



August 1, 2013

Chris Nierman
(202) 457-8815
cnierman@gci.com

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
2550 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Re: In the matter of *Universal Service Reform-Mobility Fund*, WT Docket No. 10-208;
Modernizing the E-rate Program for Schools and Libraries, WC Docket No. 13-184;
Notice of Ex Parte

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 29, 2013, Ron Duncan, Tina Pidgeon, Greg Chapados, and Chris Nierman of General Communication, Inc. ("GCI"), along with Jason Suslavich of Representative Don Young's staff, Andrea Sander of Senator Mark Begich's staff, and Peter Lewis and Miles Baker of Senator Lisa Murkowski's staff, met with Commissioner Ajit Pai and his Legal Advisor, Nick Degani. We discussed the unique challenges inherent in providing communication services in Alaska, the importance of universal service funding in overcoming those challenges, as well as the private investment that GCI has made and continues to make in its effort to sustain and expand communication services to the entire State.

Specifically, the attendees discussed the difficulties that Alaska's size, sparse population, extreme climate, and geography present in trying to deploy terrestrial-based fiber optic and microwave facilities. Mr. Duncan described GCI's history as a technological innovator and efforts to push mobile wireless service into the most remote Alaskan communities and to bring terrestrial broadband facilities to communities otherwise reliant on satellite service. Mr. Duncan discussed the technological and economic hurdles to expanding the TERRA network, which has brought terrestrial broadband service to almost 70 communities in rural Alaska.

Mr. Duncan and Ms. Pidgeon also urged Commissioner Pai to account for Alaska's unique challenges when considering changes to universal service programs. Specifically, GCI discussed the essential benefits provided through the E-Rate program and asked Commissioner Pai to keep the focus of the program on broadband connectivity to the schools. In addition, Ms. Pidgeon

discussed a proposal to prevent Mobility Fund Phase II from transferring support out of Remote Alaska, where it is desperately needed.¹

GCI provided the attendees with copies of the attached presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Chris Nierman
Senior Counsel, Federal Affairs
General Communication, Inc.
1350 I St., N.W., Suite 1260
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 457-8815

cc: Nick Degani, Legal Advisor, Office of FCC Commisisoner Pai
Peter Lewis, Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski
Miles Baker-Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski
Andrea Sanders, Office of Senator Mark Begich
Jason Suslavich, Office of Congressman Don Young

¹ See Letter from John Nakahata, WC Docket No. 10-90 and WT Docket No. 10-208 (filed June 28, 2013).